(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The National Policy for Farmers, 2007, approved by the Government aims to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of the farmers. The policy have a large number of provisions to address the problems faced by the farmers in its entirety, which *inter-alia*, include, provisions for, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; provision for access to productive assets and or market driven skills, strengthening support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, improving soil fertility; integrated pest management system; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; use of Information and Communication Technology and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc. The policy also provides for cooperative farming, group farming by SHGs, small holders' estates, contract farming and state farms and lays emphasis on sustainable farming practices and for documentation of traditional knowledge.

Use of foodgrains to produce bio-fuel

3405. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India expressed concern at the increasing use of foodgrains for production of bio-fuels at the "Third International Grain Summit-2008" at Sharm-EI-Sheikh, Egypt;

(b) whether India expressed concerns over unprecedented increase in their prices making the foodgrains unaffordable for poor population of the world;

(c) if so, how far diversion of foodgrains for production of bio-fuel has resulted into food shortage;

(d) what steps has been taken by Government to enhance food security which has become world wide phenomenon due to shortage of foodgrains in exporting countries; and

(e) the details of shortfall of foodgrains in the country for the last three years alongwith supply position of source of supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India in the "Third International Grain Summit 2008" held at Sharm-EI-Sheikh, Egypt, expressed concern over the increasing use of foodgrains for production of bio-fuels which has resulted into unprecedented increase in the prices of foodgrains making them unaffordable for poor population of the world.

(c) The household consumption requirement of rice and wheat during 2007-08 in the country is estimated at 89.47 million tonnes and 68.59 million tonnes against which the production of rice and wheat is estimated at 95.68 and 76.78 million tonnes respectively (3rd Advance Estimates - 2007-08) thereby indicating adequate availability of rice and wheat.

(d) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched with effect from Rabi 2007-08 and presently the scheme is in operation in 311 districts of 17 States. NFSM aims to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10.00, 8.00 and 2.00 million tonnes,

respectively by the year 2011-12 so as to ensure food security in the country. Besides, Integrated Cereal Development Programmes under Macro Management and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) are also in operation to enhance the production of cereals and pulses in the country.

(e) The total foodgrains production during 2005-06 was 208.6 million tonnes which increased progressively during successive years to a level of 217.28 million tonnes during 2006-07 and 227.32 million tonnes during 2007-08 (3rd Advance Estimates) and as such there is on shortfall of foodgrains in the country.

Recommendation for changing the time of sowing seeds

3406. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of the National Agricultural Research Institute revealed that due to climate change, the productivity of wheat and other cereals in North-West region of India has been less;

(b) whether the Institute has also recommended to change the timings of sowing of seeds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) in how many areas the global warming has impact on agriculture and to which extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Research studies have shown that climate change in future may reduce the productivity of wheat and other cereals in North-West region of India.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Institute has not recommended to change the time of sowing of wheat at present due to climate change. However, research indicates that changing the time of planting could be an important adaptation strategy in future to reduce the negative effects of climate change.

(d) Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) studies have shown that, in general, agriculture of temperate countries in Northern Europe and North America will benefit in future to some extent with increase in temperatures, whereas, agriculture of tropical countries in Asia and Africa will be negatively affected. Studies are being done to assess the vulnerability of agriculture in different States of India.

Avian epidemic in various states

3407. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority had examined the socio-economic impact of out break of avian epidemic in the various States;

(b) if so, the details including States affected, number of birds culled, financial loss, compensation granted, number of farmers affected for the last five years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, the details of long term plan, if any, for rehabilitation of the farmers affected by above epidemic; and

(d) the steps taken to improve solutions due to avian epidemic?